

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 325

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bliss Sheets Welch upon being crowned Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee 2013, and to wish her the best of luck in the national pageant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those emerging community leaders who strive to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens while bringing beauty, grace, and purpose to all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative individual is Bliss Sheets Welch of Harrison, who was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee 2013 on March 16 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee organization was formed in 1996 to recognize the achievements of women who use wheelchairs for daily mobility within the community; and

WHEREAS, while contestants are showcased in a pageant format, Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee is not judged on beauty; it is a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman for persons with disabilities across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee is charged with a continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness, and basic values of people with disabilities; she must be able to communicate both the needs and abilities of her constituency to the general public, the business community, and the government; and

WHEREAS, Bliss Welch has Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy 2B; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Welch is a lifelong resident of Harrison and a 1999 graduate of Ooltewah High School; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Covenant College with a degree in organizational management and she is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she is working on her Master's of Accountancy degree; and

WHEREAS, Bliss Welch serves with acumen and alacrity in the accounting department at Island Cove Marina; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Ms. Welch has raised more than \$4,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, she has been a guest speaker at the International Dysferlin Conferences, and she serves as an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistant; and

WHEREAS, in her free time, Bliss Welch enjoys spending time with her family and deer hunting; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, she is also deeply devoted to her family and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Welch is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Jeremy, and their daughter, Annabelle; and

WHEREAS, she will go on to compete at the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant in Houston, Texas, from July 15-21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bliss Welch has attained excellence in many diverse fields of human endeavor and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Bliss Sheets Welch upon being crowned Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee 2013, and wish her the best of luck in the Ms. Wheelchair America 2013 pageant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.